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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/646,653	08/21/2003	Susumu Kusakabe	113235-006	9927	
->	7590 04/13/2007 & LLOYD, LLP		EXAM	EXAMINER	
P. O. BOX 113	5		NGUYEN, THAN VINH		
CHICAGO, IL 60690			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2187		
SHORTENED STATUTOR	Y PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MO	NTHS	04/13/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensive for mem yor be written with the provision of 30° RF1.136(b). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled in the provision of 30° RF1.136(b). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled if NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statulory princed will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Failube to period with apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication, even if sinely filled, may reduce any service parameter and businers. See 3° CFR 1.74(4). Status 1) Responsive to communication (s) filled on 06 February 2007. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 16-27 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) coccepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.12(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). 13) All b) Some *C None of: 14 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application	, .		Application No.	Applicant(s)			
Than Nguyen	_		10/646,653	KUSAKABE ET AL.			
The MALLING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If NO period for regly is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and the provision of the provision of the state XIs (9) William to set or tended period for regly is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and the priod of this communication. Fall to the priod yill apply and the priod will apply and the priod of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any certain determined the priod of the communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any certain determined the priod of the communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any certain determined the priod of the priod will apply and the priod will be priod will apply and the priod will apply and			Examiner	Art Unit			
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WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provision of 37 CFR 1.13(8). In or event, however, may a reply be timely liked in the maining date of this communication. If NO period for North communication of 37 CFR 1.13(8). In or event, however, may a reply be timely liked at 11 NO period for North communication. If NO period for North communication is the communication. If NO period for North communication is provided in the provided provided in the provided provided in the communication. Fallius to provide with the set or excended period for reply will, by status course the application to become ABANDONED (38 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply reserved by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if simely filed, may reduce any search price in the ordinary reply reserved price in the communication. Status 1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2007. 2a) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) □ This action is non-final. 3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) □ Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected. 5) □ Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected. 5) □ Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected. 6) □ Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected. 7) □ Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected. 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/029.170. 3 □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority do	Period fo	The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply					
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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment, filed 2/6/07.

2.

3. Claims 16-27 are pending.

Response to Amendment & Arguments

- 4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/6/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended independent claims 16,20,25, and 26 to further include the limitation that each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size. Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach or suggest "the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size" (page 6, paragraph 3). The Examiner disagrees. The above claim language just indicates that the second has user blocks having a size and the area definition block having a size. There is no indication of what this size is or how it is determined. Thus, the Examiner interprets the above claim language to mean that the secondary having user blocks of any size and the area definition block having any arbitrary size.
- 5. Watanabe (4,734,568 for example) teaches a memory section including a first area including area definition blocks for storing data of at least one user (memory areas 1- Y; Fig. 4; 2/25-30). Each of the memory areas has a specific size (Figure 4). Watanabe teaches the second area as an index area for each of the memory areas (1-Y) for storing security access information corresponding to the memory areas 1-Y (Fig. 4-6; 3/30-52). The security access information

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area has a certain size (Figure 4-6). Thus, Watanabe satisfies the claimed "second area" limitation and the size of the user blocks and area definition blocks. The Examiner maintains the rejection to the claims, in view of Watanabe 4,849,614, for the same reasons indicated above

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 6. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 4,734,568).
- 7. As to claim 16,20,25,26:

Watanabe teaches a composite IC card. Watanabe teaches the claimed information apparatus/method for:

receiving a command from a predetermined user (Fig. 12, command input 103);

processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and second area;

the first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by provider apparatuses (index area; one for each memory area; Fig. 4; 2/25-30; Each of the memory areas has a specific size (Figure 4)) and access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus (index area contain access rights information for each memory area; Fig. 4-6; 3/30-52),

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a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size (user memory areas 1-Y has certain size; Fig. 4; 3/20-45; index area also has certain size; Fig. 4);

wherein processing the command includes accessing the area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus (using index areas to access requested storage areas; 3/49-66);

transmitting results of said processing (response read/write output; Fig. 12).

8. As to claim 17:

Watanabe teaches an unused area is assigned to the first area (Fig. 3).

9. As to claim 18,21,23,27:

Watanabe teaches processing the command by referring two or more data blocks of different access rights (a security level can have multiple access areas; 1/60-65; 3/67-4/5).

As to claim 19,22:

Watanabe teaches the second area includes a common area accessible by two or more users (areas in which multiple security levels can access; 4/1-30).

10. As to claim 24:

Watanabe teaches access right data is either read/write data OR read-only data (4/35-40).

- 11. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 4,849,614).
- 12. As to claim 16,20,25,26:

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Watanabe teaches a composite IC card. Watanabe teaches the claimed information apparatus/method for:

receiving a command from a predetermined user (Fig. 5, command input 107);

processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and second area;

the first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by provider apparatuses (index areas contain access rights information for each storage area; Fig. 1,3; 3/62-4/10; 5/50-6/40) and access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus (index area contain access rights information for each storage memory area; 3/62-4/10; 5/50-6/40), the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in block unit having a predetermined size; wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size (memory areas 1- X has certain size; Fig. 1; index area also has certain size; Fig. 4);

wherein processing the command includes accessing the area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus (using index areas to access requested storage areas; 3/65-4/21); and

transmitting results of said processing (response output; Fig. 5, step 09).

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13. As to claim 17:

Watanabe teaches an unused area is assigned to the first area (Fig. 1)

As to claim 18,21,23,27:

Watanabe teaches processing the command by referring two or more data blocks of different access rights (areas accessed determined by security level; 6/56-7/22).

14. As to claim 19,22:

Watanabe teaches the second area includes a common area accessible by two or more users (shared area; 5/40-45).

15. As to claim 24:

Watanabe teaches access right data is either read/write data OR read-only data (read/write access data; Fig. 3).

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment included new limitations and necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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